

Rev. Amos A. Phelps



Boston
Mass

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

PREAMBLE.

Whereas the Declaration of American Independence asserts that "all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and whereas this political axiom is based upon the Holy Scriptures, which declare that God hath made of one blood all nations of men, to dwell on all the face of the earth," and which require all mankind to love their neighbors as themselves; and whereas nearly three millions of the people of this country are held in slavery and selling human beings revails to an alarming extent; and whereas every man, irrespective of color, is entitled to equality of rights on the soil of his birth and residence; and whereas no prejudice against color which exists in this community is sin against God, and must be immediately removed; and whereas no scheme can be countenanced by any friend of man or God; and whereas we owe it to our oppressors, to oppressors, to our country, to the world, and to God, to do all that is right and lawfull to rescue and to bring about the extinction of slavery and the slave-trade; we do hereby agree with prayer and reliance on the divine aid to form ourselves in society, to be governed by the following Constitution.

ARTICLE I.

The name of this Association shall be the AMERICAN AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

ARTICLE II.

The following are the fundamental principles of this Society:—That all holding of slaves trading are herein sins against God, and violations of the rights of man; ought to be immediately abandoned; that so long as Slavery exists there is reasonable prospect of the annihilation of the slave-trade, and of extirpating the whole barrier of human beings—that the function of slavery, and the slave-trade will be turned more effectually by the employment of other means which are of a moral, religious, and scientific character; but at the same time this Society recognises the right of self-existence of human governments, and, therefore, while a party political arrangements incidenting its objects, it will urge on the duty of exercising their political power in behalf of the Slave—that the legislative action of governments should be directed to abolish slavery and the slave-trade, for the emancipation of the slaves of color, and to restrain the lawless in infringing the rights of others; and that no means, to the abatement of slavery and the slave-trade; The Society will employ the following means, among others, to effect the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade;

1. They will circulate information concerning the cruelties of slavery, and the slave-trade, furnish evidence to the authorities of the Slave-Holding States, not only of the practice of the Slave-Holding States, but of the pecuniary advantage of free labor;—affidathentic intelligence, and documents of the results of emancipation in the West Indies and elsewhere—Open a correspondence with Abolitionists throughout the world, and encourage them in the prosecution of their objects, by all methods consistent with the principles of this Society.

2. They will recommend the use of free-grown produce, as practicable, if preference to slave-grown produce, They will urge men and women to become members of the ministry, and church of Christ, the first to embrace every suitable opportunity for uniting the slave-holders and slave-traders, and their apologists, an adherence of the system they uphold, and is utterly incompatible with the spirit of the Christian religion.

ARTICLE V.

Any person who consents to the principles and objects of this Society, and contributes annually to its funds, shall be a member of the Society; and the payment of thirty dollars, at any one time, shall constitute an individual a member for life.

ARTICLE VI.

The Society shall annually elect a President, two Vice Presidents, Secretaries, and a Treasurer; and in case of vacancy occurring from any cause, the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill such vacancy.

ARTICLE VII.

The Society shall annually elect an Executive Committee of whom nine members, at least, shall reside in the City of New-York, and vicinity, and five, regularly convened, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. This Committee shall have power to elect their own officers; to fill all vacancies which may occur in their number; to call an annual meeting of the Society at New-York, or elsewhere, at which a report of their doings shall be made; to transact all the business of the Society in the intervals of the annual meetings; to convene special meetings of the Society, when necessary; and to collect funds through their auxiliaries, or otherwise, according to their discretion.

ARTICLE VIII.

The meetings of this Society, for the transaction of business, shall consist of its officers, and such other men as may be sent as delegates. Each State or Territory Society, auxiliary to this, shall be entitled to send two delegates, and every local association, (consisting of not less than fifty members) whether auxiliary to the State or Territory Societies, or to other Societies, shall be entitled to one delegate for every fifty members.

ARTICLE IX.

This Society shall invite and encourage the formation of Women's Auxiliary Anti-Slavery Societies, in furtherance of its objects, which societies may be represented according to Article VIII.

ARTICLE X.

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of this Society, by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present, provided the amendments proposed have been submitted, in writing, to the Executive Committee three months previously.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Committee, of one from each State, on nominating officers for the Society, reported the following names:

PRESIDENT.

ARTHUR TAPPAN, New York.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

F. J. LE MOYNE, M.D. Pennsylvania.

JOHN T. NORTON, Connecticut.

SECRETARIES.

JAMES G. BIRNEY, New York.

HENRY B. STANTON, New York.

TREASURER.

LEWIS TAPPAN, New York.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Arthur Tappan	New York.	I. S. Eddy, Providence, R. I.
J. G. Birney	"	I. Chapman
S. W. Bennett	"	S. Denning, Farmington, Conn.
S. S. Joyce	"	A. G. Beaman, New Haven, Conn.
Theo. S. Wright	"	Gerrit Smith, Peterboro, N. Y.
L. R. Storer	"	Wm. Jay, Bedford
Wm. Church	"	J. Leavitt, Bloomfield, N. J.
H. B. Stanton	"	Samuel Aarón, Burlington, " "
Lewis Tappan	"	S. E. Cornish, Newark, Penn.
Wm. Smyth, Brunswick, Me.	"	Thomas Morris, Cincinnati,
Calvin Newson, Tumison, " "	"	Wm. H. Brisbane, Cincinnati,
Jonathan Curtis, Pitts, N. H.	"	J. P. Cleveland, Mar., Mich.
C. L. Knapp, Montpelier, Vt.	"	Charles H. Ulstead, Detroit, " "
George Storrs	"	Wm. Twining, Indiana,
Wm. Jackson, Newton, Mass.	"	Ed. Beecher, Jacksonville, Ill.
J. G. Whittier, Amherst, " "	"	David Nelson, Quincy, Ill.
George Putnam, Boston, " "	"	Samuel F. Phonix, Wis. Ter.

rewards - I ~~said~~ Dr. Kidder said "in every county." If I could do it duty, with expense to the捕捉 & my family, to send a勸善書 in Worcester, I should like it, but it was uncertain. Rather I said in that time I would give the address in every county & cong. district, if proper arrangements were made.

You will see a sketch of the design in this week's paper. If you copy it, you may ask the Librarian to lend it, side by side with the "Sketch for Jay's View," for which that vice-prime minister it was taken. I am satisfied for there is printing just as I am sketching, so as to transfer over the latter part with a mere & loose at the prints. It is enough, however, to set them a thinking.

Dr. Pickard has just written - showed me your paper. I am a little surprised you did not ~~see~~ notice of my father's disease; but perhaps it was designed, I think. I wish Sam Clark would accept a re-omination in his place. If not, you will not get much bidding of money. For he who he will run best for Cong. St. Davis has

Joshua Leavitt
New York, June 24/40

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Dear Mr. Phelps -

With regard to Brother James, I think
him well of him for an agency. He is
not a great man, but an honest, sin-
cere, thoughtful man - not of a
thorough education, but rather active -
quite so in fact, & I believe a useful &
nearly successful preacher. His rank
as a speaker I do not know. I think
Denison would be a useful lecturer
for a while - he has not "the gift of
continuance" you have. Neither of
them is calculated for a superintending
agency - & the latter has a good deal
more show & promise than ac-
compliment. He is very apt to
"leave the bass door", or "the first un-
buckled," or something else unbuckled.
Yet he is often eloquent, always
sincere, & makes often the best
impressions - as I thought he did on
the shore at Boston.

Since I've had my speech, visited
the same might be repeated in